



Department of Health & Human Services
Division of Quality Assurance
Licensure Bureau
2401 Colonial Drive
2nd Floor
Helena, Montana 59620

3-8-2011

Anna Whiting Sorrell, Director

Dear Ms. Sorrell,

I write to you today out of sheer frustration with the Montana Medical Marijuana Registry Office, which you administer. These issues include, but are not limited to, unreasonable length of time to issue cards, checks being cashed yet "we don't have that patient in our system", lost or never received patient forms, as well as being issued expire cards.

In the following, I have documented some of the most recent issues with this office.

- 1) On March 3rd the MMP office issued me a card #9568, this card had expired on 2-5-2011, I also sent the MMP office a form removing myself as the caregiver for this patient on January 24, 2011. This example clearly demonstrates that there is an ISSUE with the MMP Office and the manner in which it operates.
- 2) On March 3rd the MMP office issued me the following (existing) cards 25023, 12818, 14220, 24743, 19935, 22012, 11227. The letter from the office stated that a request for changes was received. Please provide me with a written document that provides the following information:
 - i) Who requested each one of these changes?
 - ii) What changes were made? I cannot see any changes that where made.As far as I can determine, no request was ever mailed by my office or my patients. At this moment, I have serious concern for the integrity of the security of the registry's patient and caregiver list.

- 3) In late February, my office and I contacted the MMP office in Helena to inquire as to the status of many patients and their registry cards. My office was told that cards would be printed for 8 of these inquiries and the remaining 39 were not yet in the system. So, as it was explained to my office and I, this time by "Ryan", that the "MMP office only prints in batches several weeks apart". Each and every patient and caregiver form should be processed by one person and printed on the same day.
- i) I am currently waiting on a card that was submitted/mailed on November 7th, 2010. I have called 3 times to verify the status. I have resubmitted 3 times, and still have not received.
 - ii) I have not received any of the cards that "are in the system", due to the fact that "they just have not been printed"? This is completely unacceptable. Patient's checks have been cashed in the weeks prior, and the office has NOT printed the cards? What is going on up there?

As a businessman, I am attempting to provide quality customer service to my patients, as well as educating the public in general as to the benefits of this herbal medicine. I find it extremely frustrating that these issues continue with the Montana Medical Marijuana Registry Office in Helena. I have spoken with Roy Kemp on many occasions; I even drove to his office once to meet with him personally. I think he is doing the best job he can. I do not fault him. I fault the process that is currently in place in the MMP office. The registration process for registering Montana Medical Marijuana patients and caregivers has to be re-structured.

I will now provide you with suggestions that you may wish to consider. If the Montana Medical Marijuana program is to continue, the office of registry will need to develop a new processing platform that is streamlined and efficient. This platform should be designed to perform the following:

- 1) Single Point Processing
 - a) Registry form is received in Helena office
 - b) Registry form is processed by individuals in the office
 - c) Registry worker presses Print button at work station
 - d) The registry Card is printed or spooled to print queue
 - e) Printed Registry Card is Mailed same DAY
- 2) On-line Caregiver Register Account
 - a) Caregivers could register for online account that would provide much needed information in real-time.
 - b) Information that would be accessible online would be:
 - i) Number of Registered Patients for that caregiver or dispensary in real-time.
 - ii) Patients registered could change any or all contact information online, such as change of address, phone, etc. This would reduce the work load of the MMP office.
 - iii) Online Change of Caregiver- a registered patient should not have to wait 3 months to receive a new card, for a simple "Change of Caregiver". This would reduce the work load of the MMP office in Helena and allow them to concentrate on NEW PATIENTS Registry.
- 3) Our MMP system, in the Great State of Montana, cannot bear this lack of regulation that is currently the status quo. If this program is to continue regulation will be required. As the owner of "Honest John's Dispensary" in Belgrade, I offer the following suggestions:

- a) In my opinion, A Dispensary Model should be implemented statewide to remove the current dilemmas that the "True Brick & Mortar Businesses" that are operating in Montana now face. I am one of these business owners. My dilemma is unique in that I am faced with competing against individuals that have no business ties or experience or business structure in the commercial sense. I am competing for clients and patients against individuals with none or very little overhead. The fact is, I am in an industry/ that is not regulated, in even the most basic sense.
- i) Anyone that desires to provide Medical Marijuana to registered patients in the State of Montana should have secured the following:
 - (a) A Commercial Business Location (zoned for the business type)
 - (b) IRS EIN (Stating "Medical Marijuana Dispensary" as services)
 - (c) Liability Insurance in the Amount of 2 million dollars
 - (d) Monitored Alarm System
 - (e) Closed Circuit Video Surveillance (networked & remote access)
 - (f) Safe Room and Safe
 - (g) State Issued Dispensary License (similar to State Liquor License)
 - (h) Felonies should remove an individual from working or owning a Dispensary
 - (i) Tested Data on the products (MM) that the Dispensary provides to its' patients
 - (j) Certified "Grown in Montana" is a MUST. California grown and imported Medical Marijuana is causing economic hardship for all Medical Marijuana Growers locally in Montana.
 - (k) Background Check for Felonies- once a year
- b) Any operation that has adopted these business structure items should be "grandfathered-in" and allowed to continue operations without having to provide additional financial monies to obtain a new license. This will "weed" out 98 % of the caregivers currently operating in our state. This would also allow the "real" businesses to provide quality care to those patients that truly need Medical Marijuana.

I hope that the Montana State Senate, as a body, has more respect for the Montana Voter than it seems the House of Representative's does under the leadership of Speaker Mike Milburn. I hope that Senator Chas Vincent will make our position known and help our great State make good business "sense of this all". We, each and every citizen, have the opportunity to make our state a better place for everyone. We must harness the medical marijuana industry in a way the makes business sense, as well as common sense. The Montana House Republicans have turned their state party down a road that will take the Republican Party of Montana decades to recover from. This will not be apparent to them until the next election cycle. First rule of politics is never turn on the will of the voter, they threw take out the window at the first public hearing that Chairman Howard presided over for the Committee of Health and Human Services in the House.

I should also add that I have been actively involved with HB 68, which was quickly dismissed as "dead on arrival" by House Speaker Mike Milburn once he was sworn in January 3rd, 2011. I am completely disgusted with him and my fellow republicans that seem to be following him "blindly". Speaker Milburn has single-handily set the Republican Party in Montana back several decades. Or worst yet, the Republican Party may never fully recover. Our party stood for individuals, businesses, personal freedom, and lower taxes. This perception has been forever stained by Speaker Milburn and his

supporters. Speaker Milburn, along with his public statements, some of which boarder on the absurd, have made citizens wake up and see that the "professional" politicians seem to think that "they" know what is best for you and I. I ask this question, what is the "real" motive of Speaker Milburn's actions and statements?

Why is it necessary to repeal 148? Why would we ever want to repeal a law or initiative passed by the will of the people? We are approaching the slipperiest of all slopes, over-turning the will of the voter. We can regulate and fix all the problems associated with the current lack of regulation that currently exists in the Montana Medical marijuana program. It's far too easy for someone to step outside of the law as it was intended. Yes there are honorable caregivers that obey the laws, while others don't. How does this happen? Due to a serious lack of regulation, in even the simplest of forms, such as a business location and license with liability insurance to protect the patient, would be a great start.

Folks, we need common sense and we need it bad. The powers that are pushing for repeal, once obtained will go on to tell us that something else we are doing is wrong as well. Well, if children in the Billings school system are prostituting themselves for marijuana, as Speaker Milburn has stated in his recent interviews, I am just as concerned as he is. So, I will ask him this, where is the police department? Where are the parents? Where is the Principal of the school where this is an issue? Funny, I don't hear them saying these things are occurring in the schools. So, who's right? I believe that Speaker Milburn believe that "the ends justifies the means". He has demonstrated his ability to blatantly throw the Montana State Constitution and the "Will of the Voter" out with the baby and his bath water.

I am of the personal opinion that Speaker Milburn has violated his oath of office and his duty to the citizens of the Great State of Montana by conducting and continuing the "Milburn Follies", at the expense of Cancer, HIV, MS, and Chronic Pain Sufferers throughout Montana and elsewhere.

Let me put it this way, if the City of Bozeman placed an announcement in the public section of the Bozeman Chronicle stating that the City would receive bids on an upcoming project. One of the phases was site clearing prior to earthwork and site work. Several companies bid on the project, one was well known and had an established business, an office, employees, liability insurance, projects, clients, and a great reputation for providing complete projects. The other companies that bid on the project had only a chain saw and a fuel can. They had no vested interest in presenting a business-like image or business-like operations, due to the fact that it was simply not required. So the result is 100's of un-business-like, unprofessional "loggers" dropping timber all over the place and making a mess of everything.

Let's have of common sense, please.

Respectfully submitted,

Stonewall Thomas
Founder-Owner
USA- Medical Cannabis, LLC
www.honestjohns.us
406-388-2837